



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IND.

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

26
JULY

**"THE MAN IN THE
CRIME-MASTER'S
MASK!"**





THE MYSTERY OF "THE MAN IN The CRIME-MASTER'S MASK!"

BOTH THE **CRIME-MASTER** AND THE **GREEN GOBLIN** KNOW EACH OTHER'S TRUE IDENTITIES!!

But...

WHAT STRANGE SECRET IS KNOWN *ONLY* TO **FREDERICK FOSWELL ??**



CAN **SPIDER-MAN** SOLVE THIS DARK RIDDLE, CLOAKED WITHIN A GRIM PUZZLE, HIDDEN BENEATH THE SHADOWS OF A DEADLY ENIGMA??

STEALTHILY SCRIPTED BY.... **STAN LEE**
PAINSTAKINGLY PLOTTED AND
DRAWN BY... **STEVE DITKO**
LOVINGLY LETTERED BY... **S. ROSEN**

WITH THE COMING OF NIGHT, A SILENT TEEN-AGER FURTIVELY OPENS HIS BEDROOM DOOR...

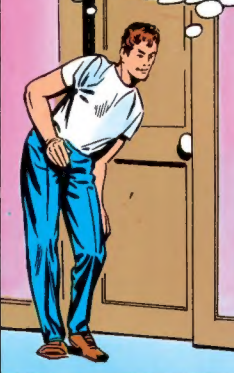
NOW IS MY CHANCE TO FIND THE COSTUME AUNT MAY TOOK FROM ME.*



*AS SHOWN IN SPIDER-MAN # 25... STAN.

I CAN TELL BY HER STEADY BREATHING THAT SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP.

SO FAR, SO GOOD!



IT'S NOT HERE IN THE TRASH CAN, SO SHE COULDN'T HAVE THROWN IT AWAY YET!

IT MUST STILL BE SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE!



I'VE TRIED EVERY CLOSET AND CUPBOARD! THERE ISN'T A SIGN OF IT! PERHAPS, IN THE ATTIC...

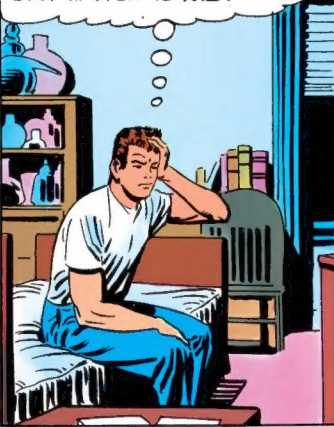


NOPE! NOT HERE, EITHER!

THE ONLY PLACE LEFT TO LOOK IS IN HER OWN ROOM! BUT I CAN'T GO IN THERE TILL THE MORNING!



WHAT A PICKLE TO BE IN! A SPIDER-MAN WITHOUT HIS COSTUME IS LIKE A BEATLE WITHOUT HIS HAIR! IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO ME!



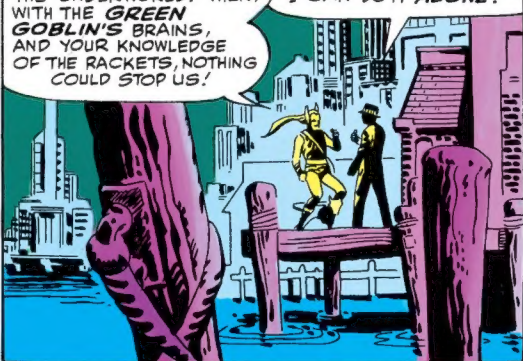
I WISH I KNEW WHAT JONAH JAMESON DID WITH MY OTHER COSTUME! THE ONE I TRICKED HIM WITH ON THAT ROOFTOP! OH, WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT TOMORROW!



BUT, THERE ARE STILL MORE WORRIES IN STORE FOR THE SLEEPING PETER PARKER! FOR, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, A MYSTERIOUS MEETING IS TAKING PLACE...

YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW! WE AGREED THAT I'D HELP YOU TAKE OVER THE UNDERWORLD! THEN, WITH THE GREEN GOBLIN'S BRAINS, AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RACKETS, NOTHING COULD STOP US!

FORGET IT! I DECIDED I DON'T NEED YOU! I'M THE CRIME-MASTER! I CAN DO IT ALONE!

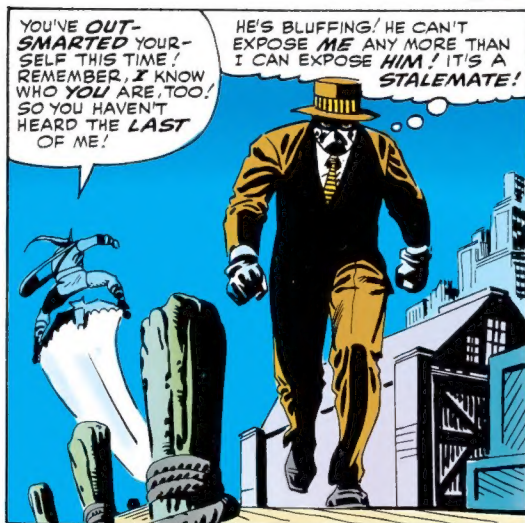


BUT I REVEALED MY TRUE IDENTITY TO YOU AS PART OF THE DEAL! IF YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY WITH ...!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO! TRY TO STOP ME, AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE WORLD KNOWS WHO YOU REALLY ARE! NOW GET LOST! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!



UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE ORDERS FROM ME! I CAN ALWAYS USE ANOTHER FLUNKY! HOW ABOUT IT, GOBLIN?



YOU'VE **OUT-SMARTED** YOURSELF THIS TIME! REMEMBER, I KNOW WHO **YOU** ARE, TOO! SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE **LAST** OF ME!

HE'S BLUFFING! HE CAN'T EXPOSE **ME** ANY MORE THAN I CAN EXPOSE **HIM**! IT'S A **STALEMATE!**



LATER, AT THE HIDEOUT OF ONE OF THE CITY'S MANY UNDERWORLD MOBS ...

SINCE THE POLICE HAVE HAD THE HEAT ON US, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PULL A CAPER FOR WEEKS!

AND AS IF **THAT** AIN'T BAD ENOUGH, WE NEVER KNOW WHEN **SPIDER-MAN** WILL SNARE US IN THAT **BLASTED WEB** OF HIS!



WELL, **ONE** THING'S FOR SURE... WE'VE GOT TO PULL A JOB SOON, OR DISBAND!

AHH, I'M JUST IN TIME!



THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO LEAVE MY CALLING CARD... NOW, WHILE THEY'RE CONFUSED AND DISSATISFIED!



HEY! LOOK OUT! THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE WINDOW!

HE'S **THROWIN'** SOMETHING!! **DUCK!!** IT'S A **BOMB!!**



NO... HOLD IT! IT BROKE OPEN! THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE BUT A **NOTE!**

GIMME! I'LL READ IT! "THIS IS YOUR FIRST AND LAST NOTICE! FROM NOW ON I'M TAKING OVER THE RACKETS! DEFEY ME, AND IT WILL NOT BE A FALSE ALARM NEXT TIME!! IT'S SIGNED... THE **CRIME-MASTER!**"

THE **CRIME-MASTER?!** ???!



IT WENT AS SMOOTH AS CLOCKWORK! BUT, THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! BEFORE I'M DONE, THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD WILL TREMBLE AT THE MERE MENTION OF THE NAME **CRIME-MASTER!**

MINUTES LATER, IN A ROOM ABOVE A PARKED AUTOMOBILE WHICH THE CRIME-MASTER HAS JUST WALKED AWAY FROM...



DON'T SAY A WORD! LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOW AT YOUR CAR WHICH IS DOWNSTAIRS! KEEP WATCHING IT!



IT BLEW UP! SAY, WHO DO YA THINK...?!

QUIET! THIS IS THE CRIME-MASTER! I'M TAKING OVER FROM NOW ON!



WITHIN HOURS, GANG LEADERS ALL OVER THE CITY ARE CONTACTED BY THE MASKED MYSTERY MAN WHOSE NAME BEGINS TO FILL THEM WITH A STRANGE APPREHENSION...



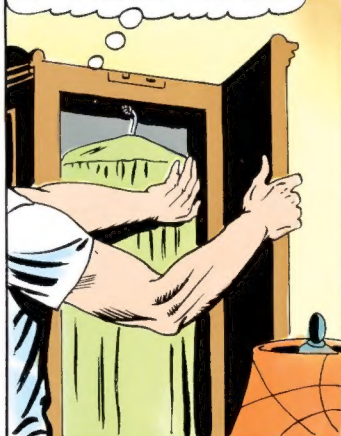
THEN, JUST BEFORE DAWN BREAKS OVER THE SPRAWLING METROPOLIS...



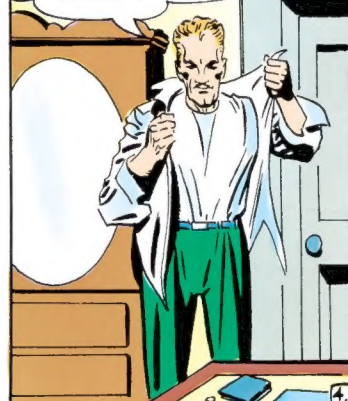
THE GAME I'M PLAYING IS A DANGEROUS ONE! ONE ERROR... ONE MISCALCULATION... COULD MEAN MY VERY LIFE! BUT, I CAN'T BACK OUT NOW!



MY SPECIAL "WORKING CLOTHES" SHOULD BE SAFE ENOUGH HERE IN THIS HOLLOWED-OUT PORTION OF MY BEDROOM CLOSET!



AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR FREDERICK FOSWELL TO RETURN TO HIS JOB AS NEWS REPORTER FOR J. JONAH JAMESON'S "DAILY BUGLE"!



OKAY, NOW THAT EVERYTHING'S THOROUGHLY CONFUSED, LET'S RETURN TO PETER PARKER'S HOUSE AND START PICKING UP THE PIECES...

MAYBE IF I BRING THE CONVERSATION AROUND TO MY COSTUME, AUNT MAY WILL MENTION WHAT SHE DID WITH IT...

I GUESS IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO TRY TO WEAR A SPIDER-MAN COSTUME TO THAT PARTY, AUNT MAY! OH, BY THE WAY, WHERE DID YOU...?

LET'S NOT DISCUSS IT ANY MORE, PETER DEAR! WE'LL CONSIDER THE MATTER FINISHED!



JUST MY LUCK! SHE THINKS SHE'S BEING NICE TO ME, BUT NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT OUTFIT AGAIN!



WELL, THERE'S STILL THE OTHER SPIDEY COSTUME WHICH JONAH JAMESON HAD! I HOPE I CAN GET THAT ONE FROM HIM!

SEE YOU LATER, AUNT MAY! I'M GOING TO RUN OVER TO THE DAILY BUGLE FOR A WHILE!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR! HAVE A NICE DAY... AND COME HOME BY BUS IF IT RAINS!



NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, WE FIND...

WELL, WELL! HELLO, PETER! HAVE YOU ANY NEW PLANS TO CATCH SPIDER-MAN TODAY??

UH-OH! SHE'S STILL ANGRY BECAUSE SHE THINKS I HELPED JONAH IN HIS FIGHT WITH SPIDEY!*

AW, C'MON, BETTY! HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA HOLD A GRUDGE?!



*SPIDER-MAN #25..STAN.

I AM NOT HOLDING A GRUDGE! AFTER ALL, IF YOU WANT TO BE PALSY-WALSY WITH JONAH JAMESON, THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS!

AW, RATS! FIRST YOU WRITE LETTERS TO NED LEEPS BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM! THEN, YOU WORRY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! HOW ABOUT HAVING A GOOD WORD FOR PETER PARKER?!



YOU MEAN THE PETER PARKER WHO'S BEEN DATING LIZ ALLAN?? AND WHO HAS ANOTHER GIRL FRIEND WHOM HE'S NEVER EVEN MENTIONED TO ME? NAMELY MARY JANE WATSON!!

BUT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW MARY JANE WATSON!



REALLY? THEN HOW COME YOUR AUNT MAY INTRODUCED ME TO HER WHEN I WAS AT YOUR HOUSE LAST TIME? IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH TO FIND LIZ ALLAN COMING TO SEE YOU, ALSO! HOW MANY MORE GIRL FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE??

LOOK! I CAN'T HELP IT IF MY AUNT HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET ME TO DATE MARY JANE! I NEVER EVEN SAW HER!



OH, NO? WELL, YOU OUGHT TO OPEN UP YOUR EYES, CASANOVA! SHE'S VERY HARD TO MISS SEEING!

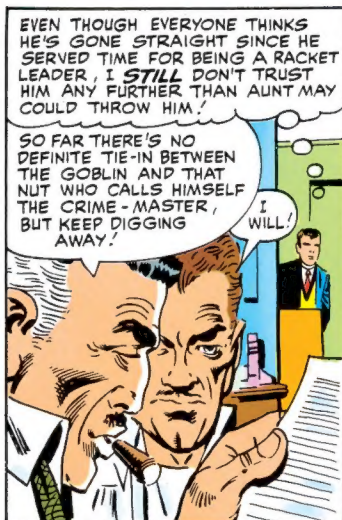
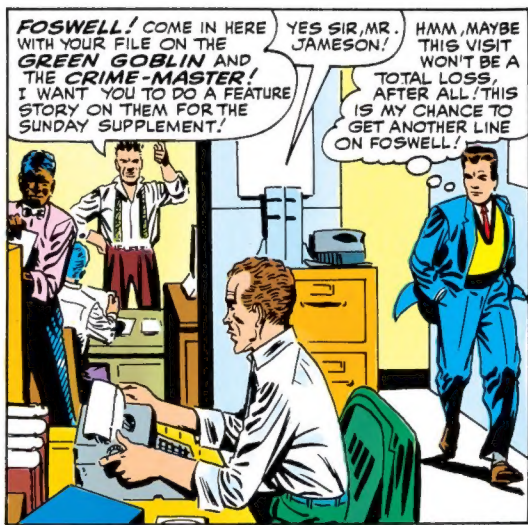
BOY! THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN A HOT-TEMPERED FEMALE IS A JEALOUS HOT-TEMPERED FEMALE!

WHAT IN SAM HILL IS ALL THE RACKET OUT HERE??!



AND, ANOTHER THING...

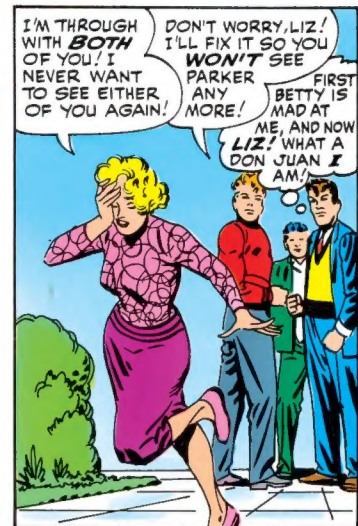
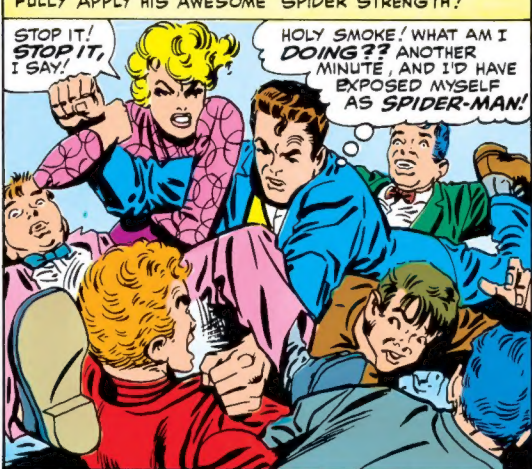
OH, BROTHER! IT'S JONAH!

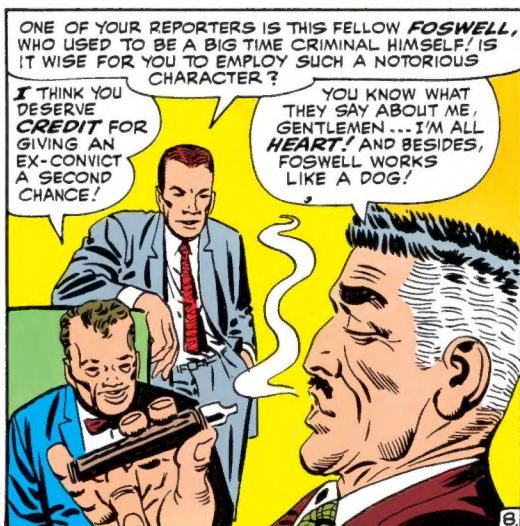
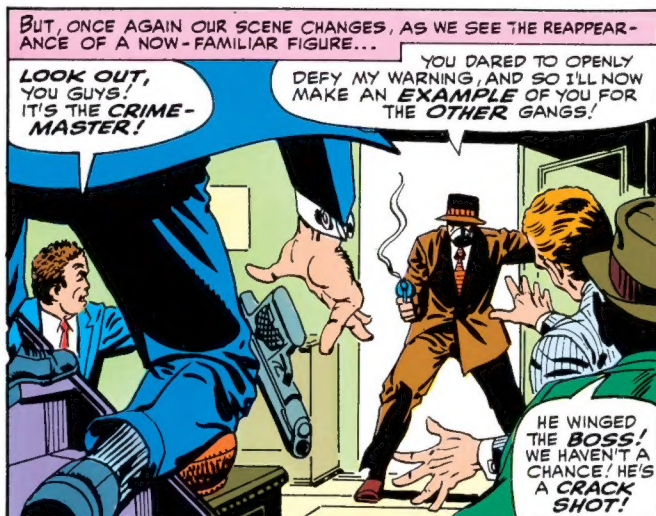
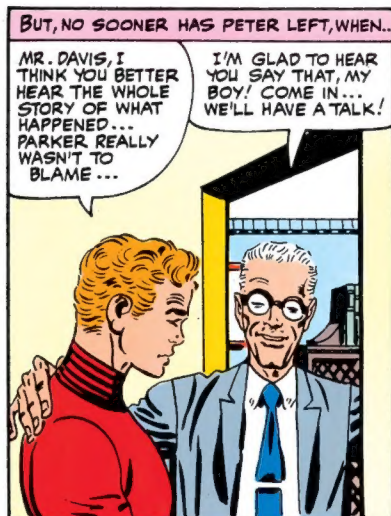


AND, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE PRINCIPAL TURNS TOWARDS THE WINDOW AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AND SEES ...



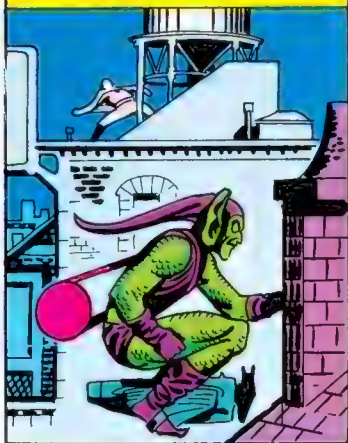
BUT SUDDENLY, A SHARP FEMALE VOICE RINGS OUT, AS PETER PARKER'S RAGE FADES AWAY BEFORE HE CAN FULLY APPLY HIS AWESOME SPIDER STRENGTH!







MINUTES LATER, TWO COLORFUL FIGURES PASS EACH OTHER IN THE NIGHT, NEITHER REALIZING HOW CLOSE HE IS TO THE OTHER...



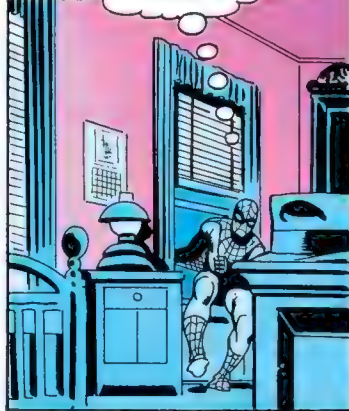
AND FINALLY...

THIS IS WHERE MY GIZMO'S SIGNAL IS COMING FROM! FOSWELL MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THAT APARTMENT!

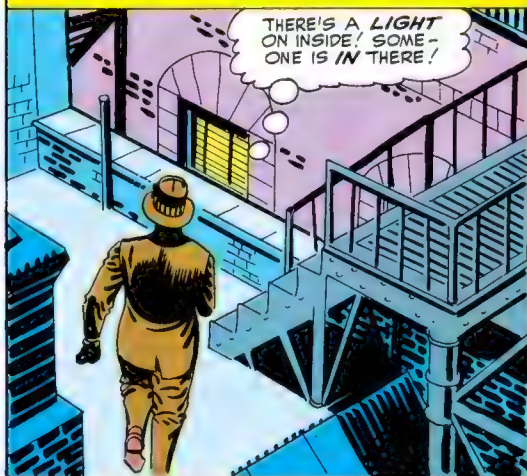


AND YET, THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE! I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!

THERE'S HIS HAT... AND THE REST OF HIS CLOTHES, BUT NO FOSWELL! THE PLACE IS **EMPTY!** I'D BETTER LOOK AROUND WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE!



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, **ANOTHER** FORM APPROACHES THE APARTMENT, FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION...



THERE'S A **LIGHT** ON INSIDE! SOMEONE IS **IN** THERE!

SO LONG AS HE LIVES, HE'LL BE A CONSTANT **THREAT** TO ME! **UNLESS...**



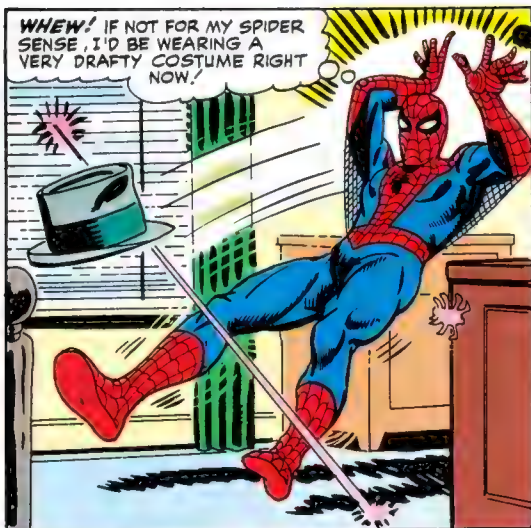
UNLESS I ELIMINATE HIM!

HMM, I WONDER... DID FOSWELL CHANGE HIS CLOTHES BECAUSE HE KNEW MY ELECTRONIC TRACER GIZMO WAS HIDDEN IN HIS HAT? OR, WAS THERE **ANOTHER** REASON??

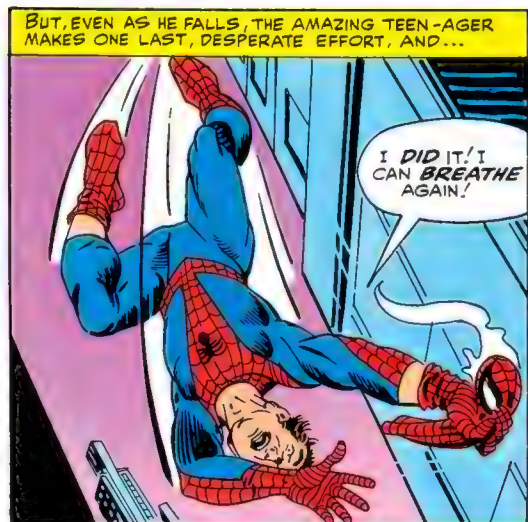
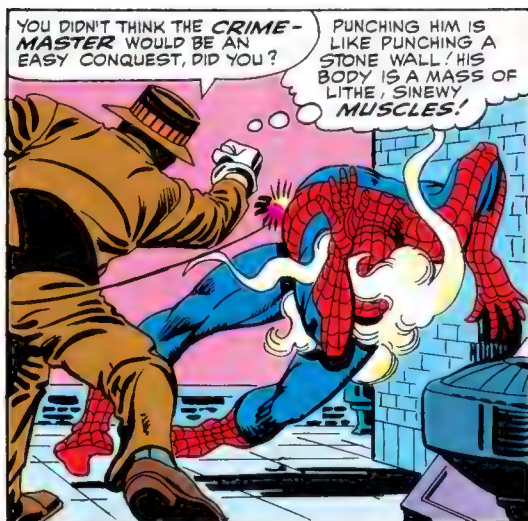


WAIT A MINUTE! MY **SPIDER-SENSE** IS TINGLING! DANGER IS NEAR... **VERY NEAR!!**



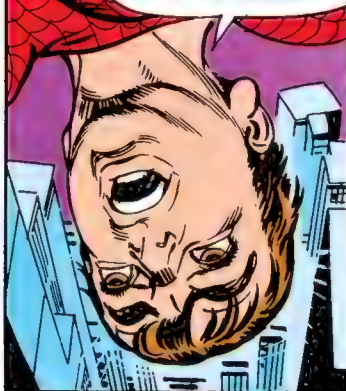






BUT WITH HIS HEAD NOW CLEARED, AND HIS LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES OPERATIONAL AGAIN, SPIDEY INSTANTLY REALIZES HIS GRAVE DANGER...

FALLING!! ABOUT TO HIT THE GROUND!!



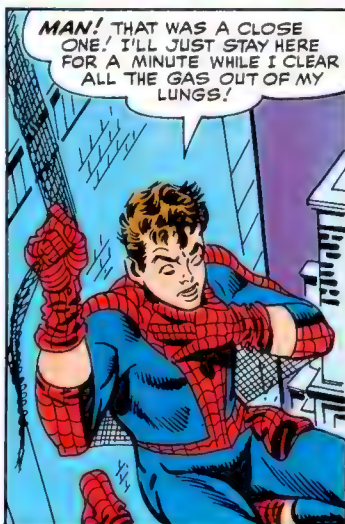
MY WEBBING! I'LL SHOOT IT OUT... FAST!



IT'S GOT TO HOLD! IT'S GOT TO!



IT DID IT!! I'M SAFE!!



MAN! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! I'LL JUST STAY HERE FOR A MINUTE WHILE I CLEAR ALL THE GAS OUT OF MY LUNGS!



BUT THEN, WHEN THE FIGHTING-MAD SPIDER-MAN RETURNS TO THE ROOFTOP AGAIN...

HE'S GONE! I'VE LOST HIM!

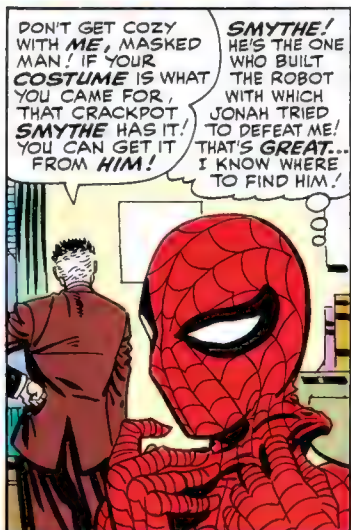
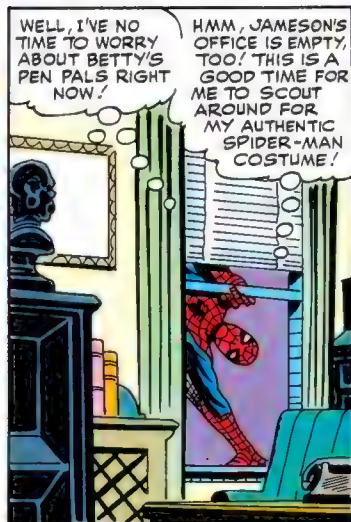
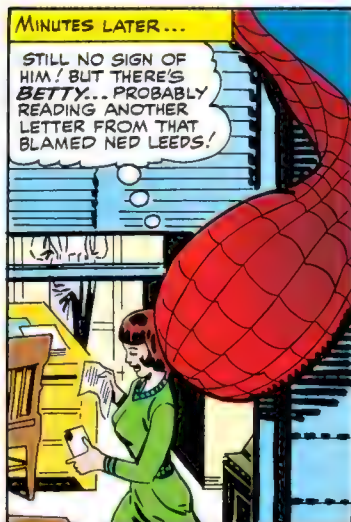


WELL, I'LL USE THESE FEW MINUTES TO WEB-UP AGAIN! IT COULD HAVE BEEN FOSWELL HIMSELF! HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN RETURNING TO HIS ROOM, AND THEN HE SAW ME AND DECIDED TO FINISH ME OFF!

BUT NOW I'VE NO WAY TO BE SURE!



NO TRACE OF HIM ANYWHERE AROUND HERE! I'D BETTER PAY A VISIT TO THE "DAILY BUGLE" AGAIN!... HE MIGHT HAVE RETURNED TO HIS JOB THERE!





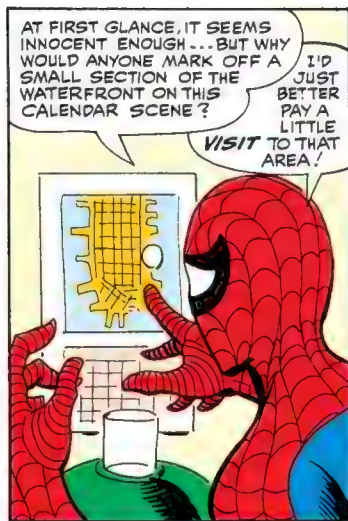
IT'S STILL EARLY, SO I MIGHT AS WELL RETURN TO FOSWELL'S PLACE! I'LL GIVE IT ANOTHER THOROUGH GOING OVER!



BUT, AFTER LONG MINUTES OF INTENSIVE SEARCHING ...

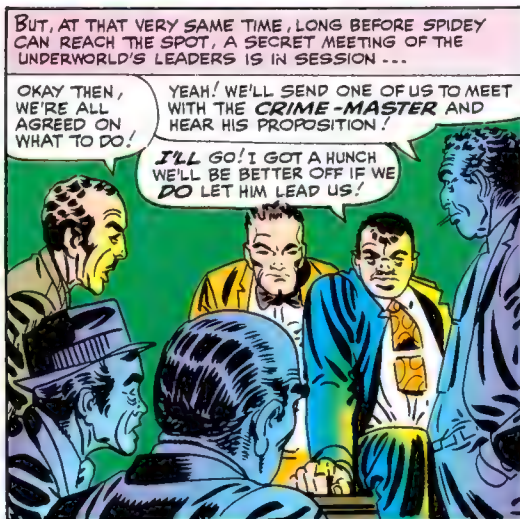
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE'D BE TOO CLEVER TO LEAVE ANYTHING AROUND THAT MIGHT INCRIMINATE HIM!

SAY! WHAT'S **THIS** LITTLE ITEM, THOUGH?!



AT FIRST GLANCE, IT SEEMS INNOCENT ENOUGH... BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE MARK OFF A SMALL SECTION OF THE WATERFRONT ON THIS CALENDAR SCENE?

I'D JUST BETTER PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO THAT AREA!

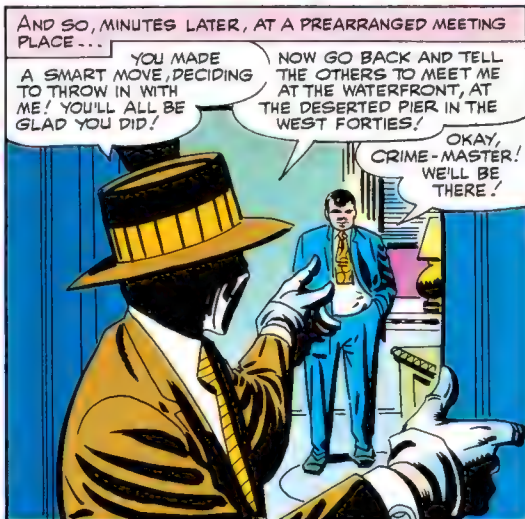


BUT, AT THAT VERY SAME TIME, LONG BEFORE SPIDEY CAN REACH THE SPOT, A SECRET MEETING OF THE UNDERWORLD'S LEADERS IS IN SESSION ...

OKAY THEN, WE'RE ALL AGREED ON WHAT TO DO!

YEAH! WE'LL SEND ONE OF US TO MEET WITH THE **CRIME-MASTER** AND HEAR HIS PROPOSITION!

I'LL GO! I GOT A HUNCH WE'LL BE BETTER OFF IF WE DO LET HIM LEAD US!



AND SO, MINUTES LATER, AT A PREARRANGED MEETING PLACE ...

YOU MADE A SMART MOVE, DECIDING TO THROW IN WITH ME! YOU'LL ALL BE GLAD YOU DID!

NOW GO BACK AND TELL THE OTHERS TO MEET ME AT THE WATERFRONT, AT THE DESERTED PIER IN THE WEST FORTIES!

OKAY, **CRIME-MASTER!** WE'LL BE THERE!



BUT NOW, JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT YOU CAN'T EVER TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED IN OUR TALES, A **NEW** CHARACTER ENTERS THE SCENE ... A STOOLO PIGEON KNOWN ONLY AS **PATCH** ...!

THE WORD IS OUT! THE MOBS ARE GONNA MEET AT THE OLD DESERTED PIER ON THE WEST SIDE!

GOOD WORK, **PATCH!** THIS IS THE TIP WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!



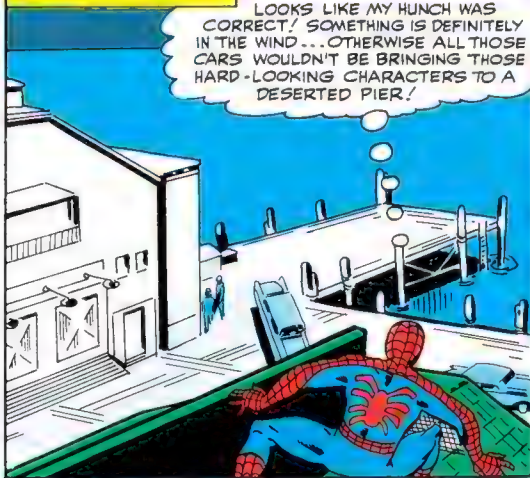
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE **CAREFULLY!** THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST MEN HAVING A MEETING... NOT EVEN IF WE KNOW THEY'RE UNDERWORLD BIG SHOTS!

BUT, IF WE KEEP THEM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, AND PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT, WE MIGHT GET ENOUGH EVIDENCE ON THEM TO PUT THEM AWAY FOR GOOD!

OKAY, YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS! NOW TAKE OFF!

AT THE WATERFRONT, A SHORT TIME LATER, WE NEAR OUR STIRRING CLIMAX...

LOOKS LIKE MY HUNCH WAS CORRECT! SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY IN THE WIND... OTHERWISE ALL THOSE CARS WOULDN'T BE BRINGING THOSE HARD-LOOKING CHARACTERS TO A DESERTED PIER!



I BROUGHT SOME OF MY MUSCLE MEN, JUST IN CASE! WHAT'S THE DELAY? ISN'T THE CRIME-MASTER HERE YET?

NO! HE'LL SHOW UP AFTER EVERYONE'S ARRIVED! JUST GO INSIDE AND WAIT WITH THE OTHER GUYS!



BUT ANOTHER CONFERENCE IS SECRETLY TAKING PLACE NEARBY...

YOU CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT ME! THE WHOLE PLAN WAS ORIGINALLY MINE! IF YOU TRY TO SQUEEZE ME OUT, I'LL ...!

YOU'LL DO **NOTHING!** NOT SO LONG AS I HAVE THE PROOF OF YOUR REAL IDENTITY LOCKED IN A SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT!



IF I'M EVER FOUND DEAD, THE POLICE WILL OPEN THAT VAULT AND LEARN WHO... HEY! WHA...??

YOU CHEAP DOUBLE-CROSSER! THE GREEN GOBLIN DOESN'T HAVE TO RESORT TO MURDER! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS...!!



HE WAS HIDING A GUN BEHIND HIS BACK!

WELL, THE SMOKEY EXHAUST FROM MY JET GLIDER WILL COVER ME SO THAT HE WON'T KNOW WHERE TO SHOOT!

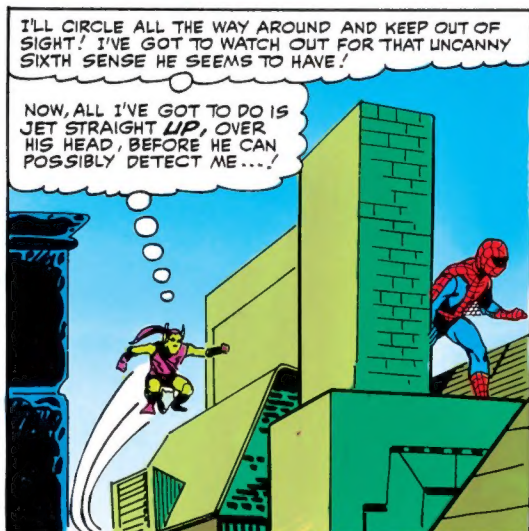
BLAST YOU! NO MATTER HOW TRICKY YOU ARE, A BULLET CAN STILL GET RID OF YOU FOREVER!

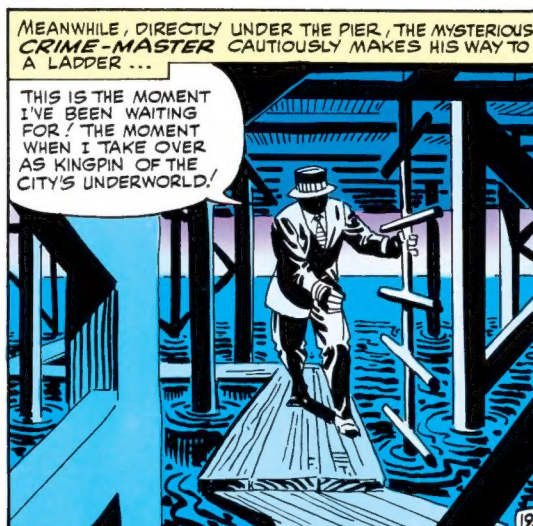
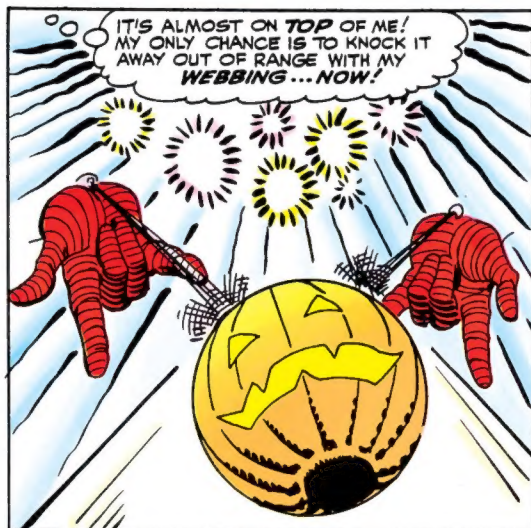


HE'S THROWING **STUN BOMBS**, BUT I'M IN LUCK... HIS OWN SMOKE IS HIDING ME FROM HIM, ALSO!

I'D BETTER HOLD OFF! IF I SHOULD ACCIDENTALLY KILL HIM, MY SECRET WILL BE MADE PUBLIC!







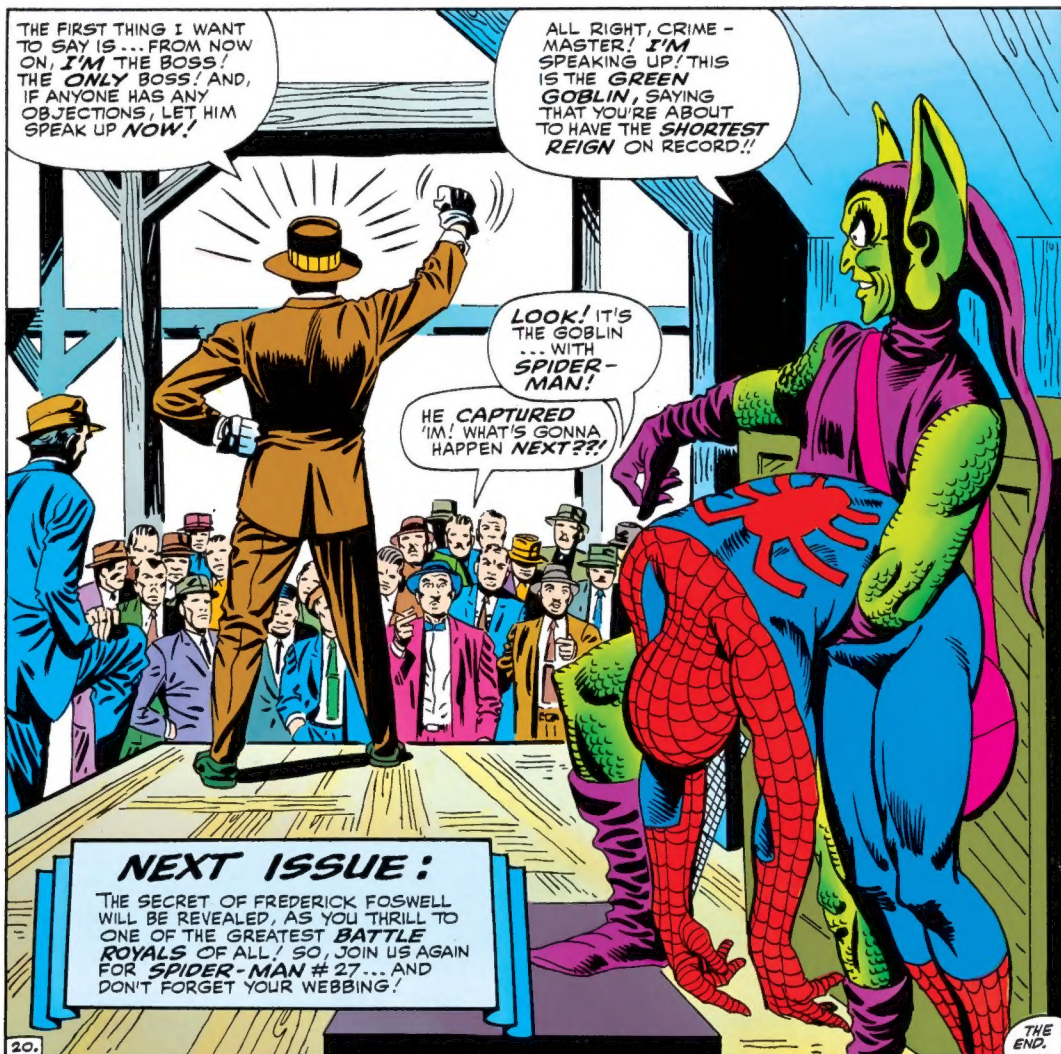


EVERYONE IS HERE! EVERY MOB LEADER IN THE AREA! THEY'VE ALL COME TO ACCLAIM **ME** AS THEIR LEADER!



AND NOW, FOR MY LONG-AWAITED MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!

HEY, PIPE DOWN, YOU GUYS! CLAM UP, ALL OF YOU! THE **CRIME-MASTER** IS HERE! HE'S GONNA TELL US ABOUT HIS PLANS!



THE FIRST THING I WANT TO SAY IS...FROM NOW ON, **I'M** THE BOSS! THE **ONLY** BOSS! AND, IF ANYONE HAS ANY OBJECTIONS, LET HIM SPEAK UP **NOW**!

ALL RIGHT, **CRIME-MASTER**! **I'M** SPEAKING UP! THIS IS THE **GREEN GOBLIN**, SAYING THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE THE **SHORTEST REIGN** ON RECORD!!

LOOK! IT'S THE GOBLIN... WITH **SPIDER-MAN**!

HE CAPTURED 'IM! WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN **NEXT**??!

NEXT ISSUE:

THE SECRET OF FREDERICK FOSWELL WILL BE REVEALED, AS YOU THRILL TO ONE OF THE GREATEST **BATTLE ROYALS** OF ALL! SO, JOIN US AGAIN FOR **SPIDER-MAN** # 27... AND DON'T FORGET YOUR WEBBING!



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE